

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY 2006 – 2009

1) Introduction

The Malaysian Association of the Netherlands 3rd. Annual General Meeting was held in July 2006 in MATRADE, Rotterdam. About 15 members attended the meeting. The AGM was held accordingly to the Constitution of the Association chaired by the President, Mohammed bin Mohd.Taib. The meeting began at 11h00 with the approval of the Agenda.

The President addressed the members with a report for the year 2004-2005. Report on events and activities of 2005 were presented by the Secretary, Sharina Karim. The Treasurer, Zahariah Kahar presented the financial statement for the year 2004-2005.

An election of the Executive committee for the year 2005-2006 was held accordingly to the quorum stated by the Constitution and chaired by Mr. Roslan Abdul Rahman, the ex-officio representing the Embassy of Malaysia. There was no amendment to the constitution passed at the meeting

A new Executive Committee was elected at the AGM. Following are the elected members of the Executive Committee of MA-NL 2005-2006:

President:	Mohammed Bin Mohd Taib
Vice President:	Yusof (Joe) Ismail
Secretary:	Sari Kartina (Sharina) Abdul Karim
Treasurer:	Chelvi Kandiah
Ex-Officio:	Ayatillah Ahmad
General Committee members:	Marina Zahari in charge of culture
	Faisal Zahari in charge of Sports and Tours
	Jessica Foo Moi Cheng Foo in charge of Media/Public Relation
	Lisa Li Soh Huan
	Zahariah Kahar

There were no Annual General Meeting held for the year 2006, 2007 and 2008. In 2008 however, the Treasurer, Chelvi Kandiah left to Malaysia without tendering her resignation and Joe Ismail took over as the Acting Treasurer, assisted by Lisa Li Soh Huan.

2) Membership

The Malaysian Association of the Netherlands is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political and non-sectarian organization whose primary purpose is to bring together Malaysians living in the Netherlands. Membership is open to all Malaysians residing in the Netherlands and non-Malaysians, who are "Friends of Malaysia", can join as associate members.

There are 3 categories of Membership:

- a) Ordinary individual Members are citizens, students and permanent residents of Malaysia, aged 18 years and above.

- b) Associate Members : open for anyone who are working in the Netherlands under Malaysian or non-Malaysian companies/corporations/organization /societies
- c) Ordinary Corporate Members: companies/corporations/organizations in good standing which are incorporate established under the laws of Malaysia. Herein referred to as Malaysian-registered companies/societies/association and which have a legal presence in the Netherlands in a form permitted by the laws of the Netherlands.

Since its launching, membership has grown to a total 53 paid principal members, and taking into account the family membership, the total number exceed to 146 but unfortunately the numbers are decreasing these few years. It is a situation that we, the Executive members are not very proud of. More membership drives are needed to promote and initiate membership.

3) Activities 2006 to 2009

The main objective of MA-NL is to bring together Malaysians through educational, social, cultural and economic activities, and to promote the interests of its members and to foster Malaysia/Netherlands understanding and co-operation. In view of this objective, the newly elected Executive Committee Members met and proposed an agenda of activities to be held for the term. There were considerable activities and events organized and participated by MA-NL over the year 2006 to 2009 and I would like to highlight these events accordingly:

2006

- a) The ASEAN Country Morning 13th March organized by the International Women Contact (IWC) in collaboration with the ASEAN Ladies Circle. MA-NL had the honor of presenting the "Batik and Songket Fashion Show.
- b) The Inter-embassy – Inter-association Games 29th April to 1st May. The Malaysian Embassy, the PERWAKILAN and MA-NL organized a social gathering, tours and sport activities for our counterpart, the France Embassy, the PERWAKILAN of France and the MAF (the Malaysian Association of France)
- c) The Malaysia Food Fair 24th and 25th June. Organized by the PERWAKILAN and the Embassy. MA-NL run the drink stall called the "MA-NL Grande Café "
- d) MA-NL Family Day was held on the 9th September at the Spartelvijver of the Haarlemmermeerse Bos
- e) In November MA-NL at the Vice President's residence in Rotterdam and the Embassy in the Ambassador' residence in Wassenaar, participated in the T.V3 Malaysia documentary on Malaysians in the Netherlands celebrating the Hari Raya Aidil Fitri.

2007

This year marked the 50th anniversary of independence of Malaysia as well as the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the Netherlands. The Embassy of Malaysia had a busy schedule organizing numerous events to celebrate the anniversary. Due to this situation MA-NL agenda was stalled so that we could cooperate with the Embassy in any form possible. Our contribution to the celebration is to participate at the Pasar Malam Besar, in Malieveld, The Hague on 20th May.

The Pasar Malam Besar (also known as Tong Tong Fair) is the largest festival in the world for Indo (European-Indonesian) culture, held annually in The Netherlands. Malaysia was the theme of this year and MA-NL presented a cultural performance at the Bintang Theatre in collaboration with the cultural dance troupe Badan Budaya Malaysia of Frankfurt. Our President, Mohammad Taib did a Malaysian cooking demonstration for 2 weeks at the Kooktheater and a fruit craft at the Benkel. MA-NL participates also at the 2 days Malaysia Food Fair at the Embassy in June.

2008

The Malaysia-Netherlands Association (MA-NL), with the support of the Malaysian Embassy, organized a Gala Evening on 13 December 2008 in MATRADE Rotterdam. Highlight of the event was the Malaysian singer Nadia Haswani Hasnan and Malaysia celebrity Chef Ismail prepared a taste of Malaysian food and presented the show with me. About 250 guests attended the event.

2009

In April, MA-NL participated with celebrity Chef Ismail with his TV show called 'Rentas Benua', an infotainment program to promote Malaysian cuisine in Europe. A cooking demonstration was held in MATRADE with MA-NL members.

Malaysia Gala Nite 2009 was held on 14 November 2009 aboard in the futuristic flagship of the Spido-fleet m.v Abel Tasman berthing at Piet Smitkade, Harbor no.1085, Rotterdam (opposite the Feyenoord Stadium) a ship in Rotterdam; it was attended by 250 people from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Denmark. The guests were entertained by the Malaysian singer Nadia Haswani Hasnan, the Edo Hartstings and Friends band, the table magic show with the popular Sylvia Schuyer and our very own MA-NL dance troupe while the sumptuous Malaysian meals were prepared by the Malaysian celebrity chef, Chef Ismail. A huge turnout of more than 250 people with an international allure, exceeded all expectations

15 December, MA-NL dance troupe performed at the FOX City Reistheater in Nieuw-Vennep in collaboration with Malaysia Tourist promotion Board.

4)

MA-NL website

MA-NL has established its own website for assimilating information and publishing its activities to its members. The Ma-NL website was first created by me with the approval of the Executive Committee Members and launched as www.ma-nl.com in April 2002. An MA-NL official logo competition was held through the website and the winning design was by Abdul Azeez with the appropriate symbol of a bunga raya and a tulip with right colors of blue, red and yellow. In 2004, the website was changed to www.ma-nl.org.

Due to my personal tragedy in 2006, with stress and confusion I have stopped the website in service without the approval of the Executive Committee members. I take full responsibility for my action and hereby would like to apologize for any convenience caused.

However I am pleased to inform you that we are the new owner of www.ma-nl.com hosting service. The new website has the same content as our old site. However I am doing my best toward a new design and give it a new image as a functional and informational website. I would be honored if any of our members would like to cooperate with me in improving every aspect of the website.

5)

MA-NL Dance Troupe

The MA-NL Cultural Dance Troupe was formed in Rotterdam in June 2003. Its members consist of Malaysian students, Malaysians permanently residing in the Netherlands, members of the Malaysian Association of the Netherlands and friends of Malaysia. They are all volunteers with the main objective to promote Malaysia and Malaysian culture in Europe.

The repertoire of MA-NL dance troupe includes Malaysian and ethnics' dances. The MA-NL Dance troupe has performed in various occasions all over Europe collaborating with our corporate members. The dance troupe is always open for our local community to learn our Malaysian cultural dances. We hope that this project will continue in the years to come and members can encourage their children to participate and learn our Malaysian cultural dances.

6)

Conclusion

That gives a summary of the past years activities and events. It has not been a successful years for us. We did fewer activities than the years after the launching of the Association and the numbers of membership have decrease. There were less meetings and dialogues between Committee members which resulted in less creativity to meet with the main objective of MA-NL. However, we must appreciate the sacrifices and enormous dedication shown by the Committee members for the last past years. Despite our financial constraints we have nevertheless managed to put together the above activities for our members and the Treasurer's Report is promising.

We had full supports from The Embassy of Malaysia, The Ladies Association of the Embassy (PERWAKILAN). We are fortunate to have the kind co-operations from MATRADE, Malaysia Airlines, Malaysia Tourist Promotion Board, Unimills, PETRONAS and not to mention other Malaysian agencies and companies operating in the Netherlands. Therefore these supports and co-operations are vital and should be maintained through contacts and exchanging of ideas.

A vigorous campaign is needed to promote and initiate membership. More communications and activities are necessary for existing members which will attract others to become members. Interactive with the Malaysian and Dutch community by participating with community events. Invite and form liaisons with students for our numerous projects or stand for the committee election. Create educational seminars and assists new comers to the Netherlands.

Therefore our main challenge now is to attract and initiate new members and promote MA-NL as a successful Association, keeping in mind the basic objectives of bringing together Malaysians through educational, social, cultural and economic activities. The success of MA-NL depends on our members.

Thank you again for all your support.

Sharina Karim
Secretary MA-NL 2006 – 2009
9 January 2010.